

GEOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION edited by D. O'Halloran, C. Green, M. Harley, M. Stanley and J. Knill, The Geological Society, London, 1994. No. of pages: xiv + 530. Price: £70.00. ISBN 1-897799-09-8.

This is the volume resulting from the *International Conference on Geological and Landscape Conservation* held at Malvern in July 1993. The conference was organized by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee with its constituent country agencies (English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and Countryside Council for Wales), and by the Geological Society and Geologists' Association of Britain. It is a large, handsome book comprising 100 papers, covering a range of aspects of geological and landscape conservation, and is truly international in its scope.

The papers are organized into four main themes: sustainability, landscape conservation, local conservation and community initiatives, and site conservation and public awareness. The theme of sustainability begins with general principles, then moves to planning and practice. The particular problems of fossil heritage and the conflicts of conservation interest with mineral exploitation, but paradoxical benefits of outcrop exposure, are addressed. The need for, and method of, shortlisting internationally important geological sites as World Heritage sites is discussed. Within the landscape conservation theme, some types of geomorphological landscape and features receive much more attention than others, notably rivers and karst landscapes. Methods of evaluating landscape and the experiences of both national parks and individual nations in respect of landscape conservation are described. As in other sections, the papers range from those examining general principles to those using case studies to illustrate problems or solutions in conservation. The landscape theme is especially international in coverage. The section on local conservation and community initiatives is dominated by British contributions, and includes details of the RIGS (Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites) initiative and wider illustrations of the involvement of people at local level. Theme four comprises illustrations of approaches that have been taken in various countries and at various sites to raise public awareness of earth heritage and conservation. These range from low-key local projects to highly organized national schemes.

The book concludes with papers promoting the idea of an international convention on Earth science conservation, summaries of two workshops held on this subject and the final resolution produced by the conference, which is as follows:

The Malvern International Conference 1993

- believes that there is need for an international Earth science conservation convention;
- recognizes that the *justification for, potential scope of, and objectives of*, such a convention should be examined in depth; and
- supports the establishment of an international task force which will pursue, and report back, on these propositions.

This important resolution is an indicator of the landmark status of the conference and this volume.

As one would anticipate in a book with so many contributors, the papers are of variable, though generally high, quality. The book contains a wealth of information and is particularly valuable for the concise summaries on key developments and current positions in individual countries. A wide range of issues is raised and a variety of approaches and methods is exemplified. However, all the papers are very short, so that what is gained in breadth is lost in depth of argument. Nevertheless, this stands as an important reference book and a comprehensive appraisal of where we are, or were in 1992, in terms of geological and landscape conservation.

The book is well produced, with consistent text and diagrams or photographs of high quality. If anything, it would have benefited from more photographs. The book is highly priced and likely to reach only library shelves rather than the wider professional and public readership it deserves. It is a book of which geomorphologists should be aware. It is complemented by the proceedings of the preceding Crewe conference on *Conserving our Landscape*, which also contains much of value on geomorphological conservation. Together, the two volumes pay fitting tribute to the late Chris Stevens who did so much to progress Earth science conservation in Britain.

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GLOBAL GEOLOGICAL RECORD OF LAKE BASINS, VOLUME 1 edited by E. Gierlowski-Kordecz and K. Kelts, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1994. No. of pages: xxxiii + 427. Price: £80.00. ISBN 0-521-41452-0.

This compilation of papers represents part of the output from the IGCP Project 219 (Comparative Lacustrine

Sedimentology in Space and Time) and its successor Project 324 (Global Paleoenvironmental Archives in Lacustrine Systems). The projects encouraged those studying lake deposits, from a range of disciplinary backgrounds, to put their work into a global perspective and to begin to develop a common sedimentological vocabulary with which to describe these sediments. The stated aim of the present volume is to provide concise summaries of lacustrine deposits, especially with respect